

ABSTRACT

On a plurality of IP networks where each network is remote from every other network and is connected to the internet by a VPN-router, a method of sending IP packets from a host on a home network to hosts on remote networks by assigning a network ID to each network, assigning IP addresses to hosts on each network, assigning virtual IP addresses to the home network where each virtual IP address represents a host on one of the remote networks and each virtual IP address has the same network ID as the home network, assigning virtual IP addresses to each remote network where the virtual IP addresses represent a host on the home network and each virtual IP address has the same network ID as the remote network to which it is assigned; creating, in each VPN-router, tables that cross reference each virtual IP address assigned to the VPN-router's network to the network ID of the remote network of the host which the virtual IP address represents, and cross referencing the IP address of each host on the VPN-router's network to the virtual IP addresses representing those hosts on other networks; and sending a plurality of IP packets from one or more hosts on the home network to one or more hosts on remote networks by addressing the packets to virtual IP addresses assigned to the home network representing the destination hosts on the remote networks.